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ABSTRACT

Four simple "how" stories from Alaskan legend are presented in large type and amply illustrated. In "How the Caribou Lost His Teeth", Siqpik's only son is eaten by the sharp-toothed caribou, so Siqpik feeds the animal sour berries to make his teeth fall out. "How the Loon Got His Spots" relates how the raven paints the loon's back with soot then throws ashes on the loon's head in anger. "The Pike and the Mudsucker" tells why the pike has a boney body and the mudsucker has a boney tail. In "How the Beaver Got His Tail" the beaver and the muskrat exchange their original tails. (SB)

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HOW STORIES from ALASKA

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HOW STORIES

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As a joint project with the
Alaska State Department of Education

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HOW THE CARIBOU LOST HIS TEETH

This is a caribou.

He lived a long time ago.

Look at his teeth.

They are long and sharp.

1

This caribou was a meat eater.
He liked to eat rabbit.
He liked to eat ptarmigan.
He liked to eat fish.
He needed long sharp teeth.
He needed them to eat with.

2

This is an old lady.
Her name is Siqpik.
She had one child.
Her child was a boy.

3

Siqpik loved her son.
She cooked for him.
She made his clothes.
He was her only son.
She loved him very much.

4

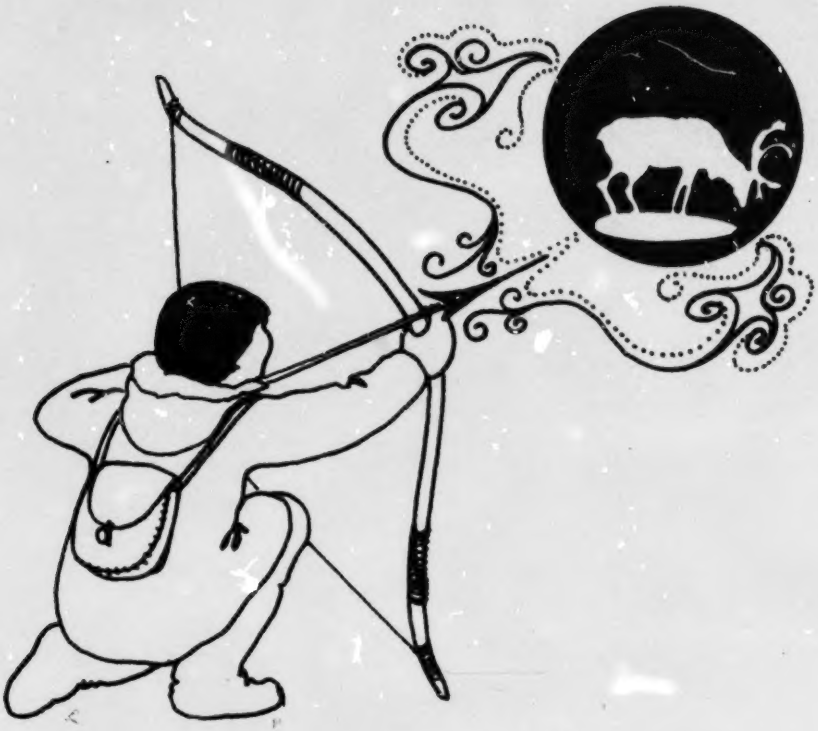
This is Qayaq.
He is Siqpik's son.
He liked to hunt.
He liked to hunt caribou.

One day Qayaq went hunting.
He said, "Mother, I'm going
hunting for caribou.
Keep the fire going.
Later, we'll eat caribou."
And he went from his house.

Qayaq went up the ridge.
He was hunting for caribou.
He walked and walked.
He kept on hunting.
He went far from his house.

Qayaq saw a caribou.
He walked very quietly.
The caribou didn't see him.
Qayaq wanted to kill the caribou.

8



Qayaq had a bow and some arrows.
He wanted to shoot the caribou.
He walked very quietly.
The caribou didn't hear him.
The caribou didn't see him.

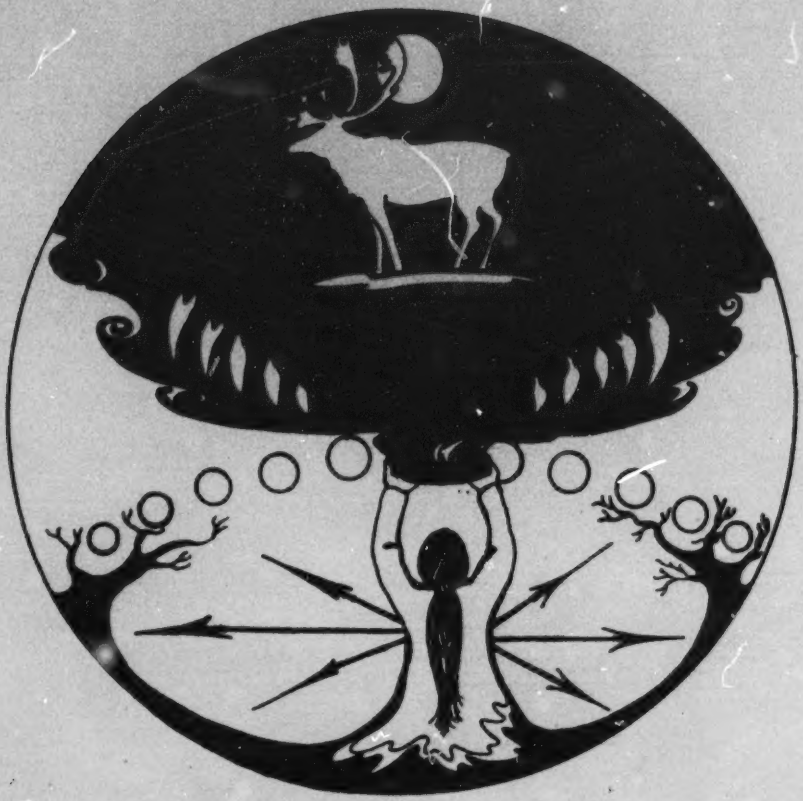
9

Qayaq was close to the caribou.
The caribou saw Qayaq.
The caribou was angry.
He didn't want to be shot.

The caribou charged at Qayaq.
Qayaq didn't shoot.
He looked at the long sharp teeth.
He was afraid.
And then the caribou ate Qayaq.

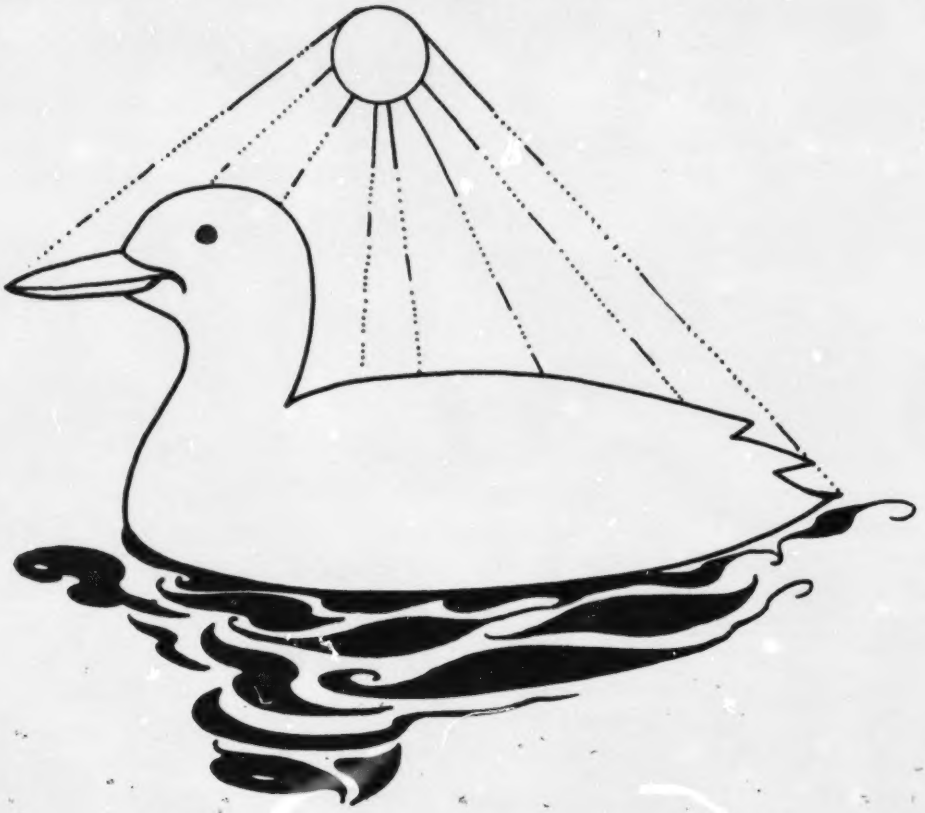
11

Siqpik was very sad.
She loved her son.
She missed her son.
So, she went to look for the caribou.

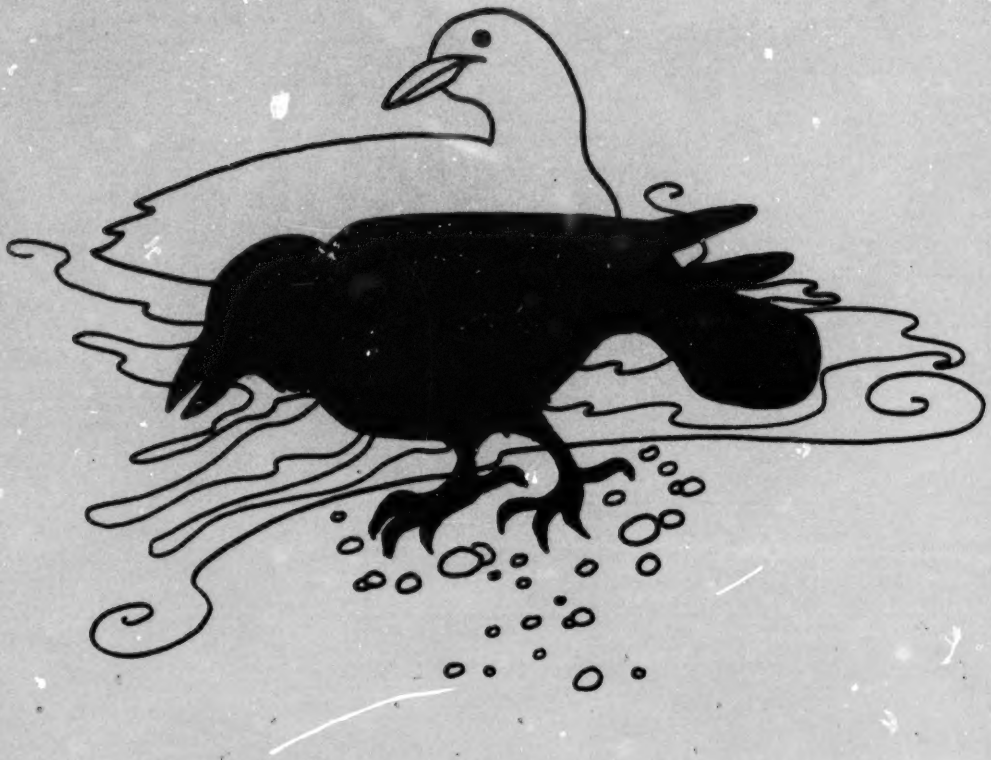


Siqpik gathered some sour berries.
She found the caribou.
She gave the berries to him.
They made his mouth water.
His long teeth all fell out.
And to this day, caribou have short teeth.

HOW THE LOON GOT HIS SPOTS



Long ago, the loon was all white.
He had no other color.
He wasn't very happy.
He wanted to be handsome.
So, he decided to paint himself.



The loon met a raven.
The raven said, "You have no color.
I can paint you.
Then you will be handsome."

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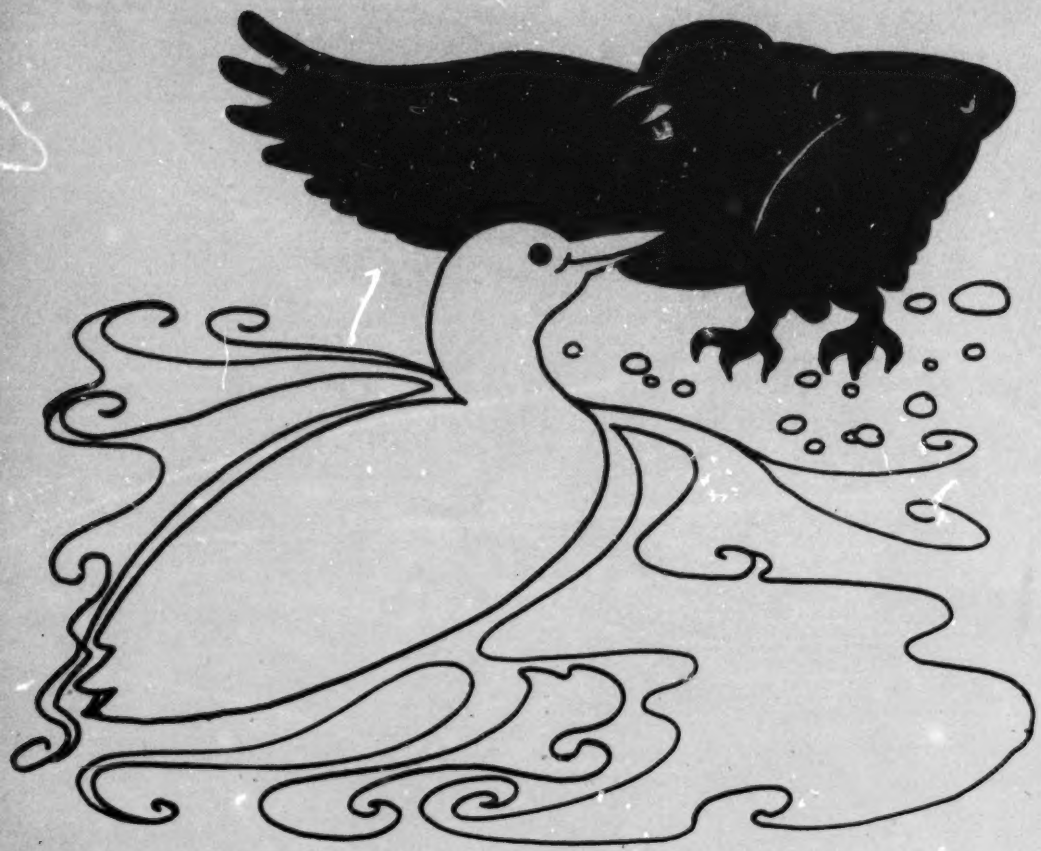


"Can you do that?" asked the loon.
"Oh, yes," answered the raven.
"I'll make you very handsome.
I paint beautifully."

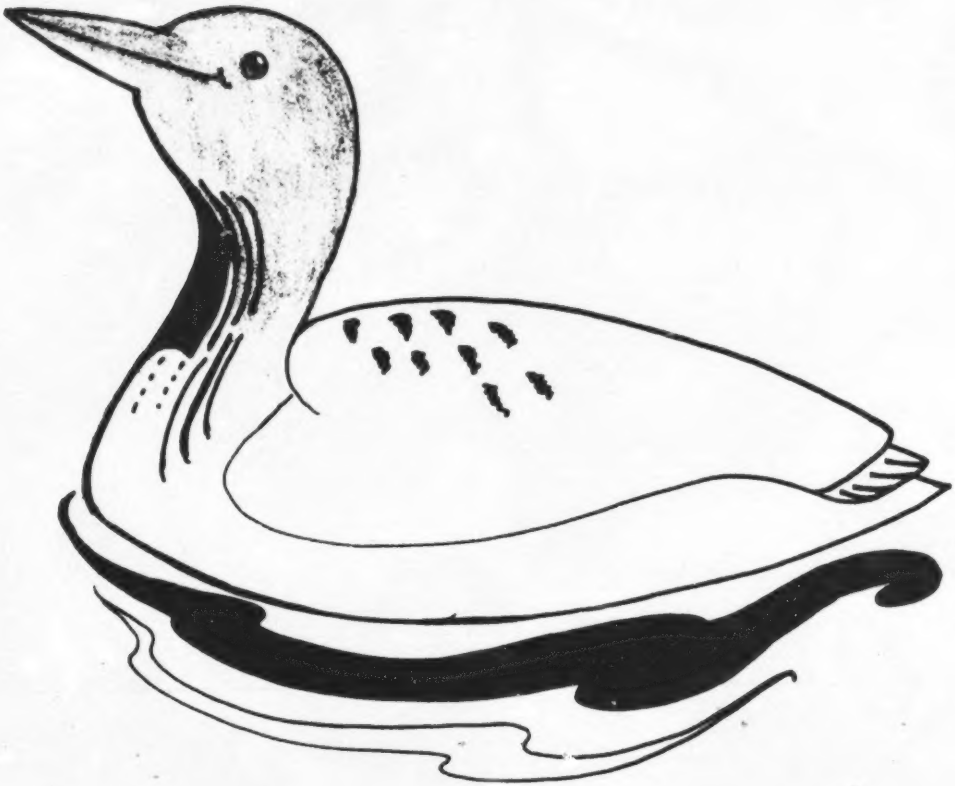
"Oh, please paint me nicely.
I want to be handsome.
I want all my friends to see me.
Hurry up!"

So the raven got some soot.
He started to paint the loon.
The loon couldn't sit still.
Then the loon flew away.
He didn't even say thank you.

The raven was angry.
He gathered some ashes.
He threw the ashes at the loon.
That made the loon angry.

19

The ashes landed on the loon's head.
The ashes stuck there.
They made his head look gray.



To this day, the loon has a gray head.
His back is still black.
He is gray where the raven threw the ashes.
He is black where the raven painted him.

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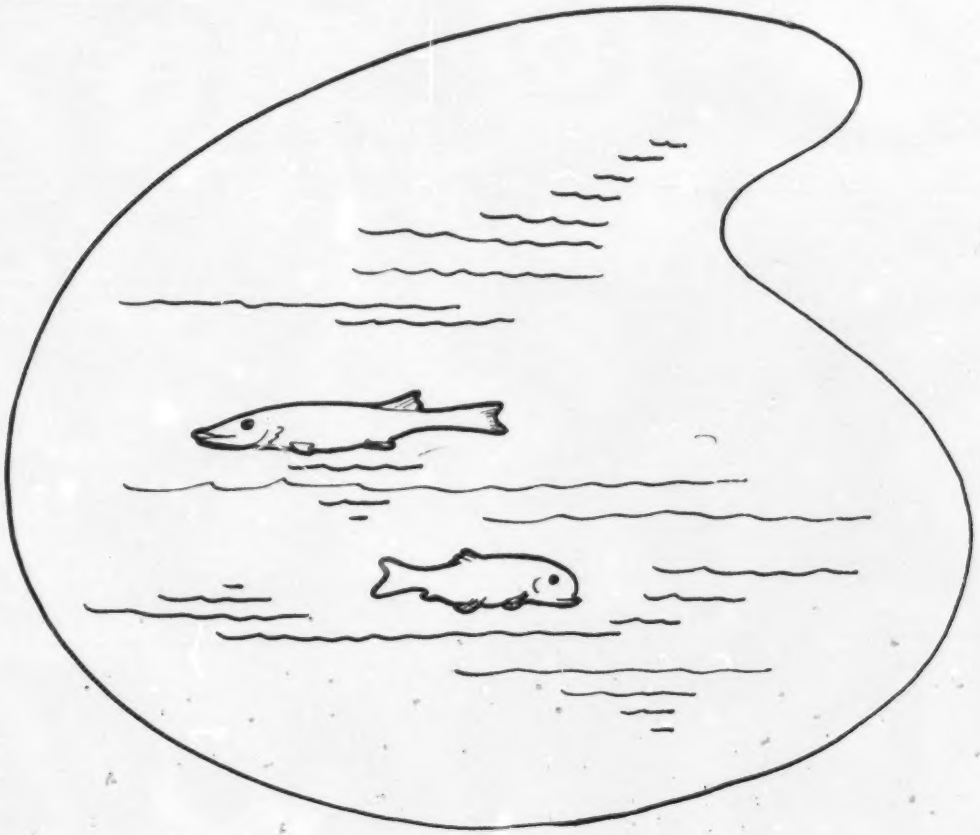
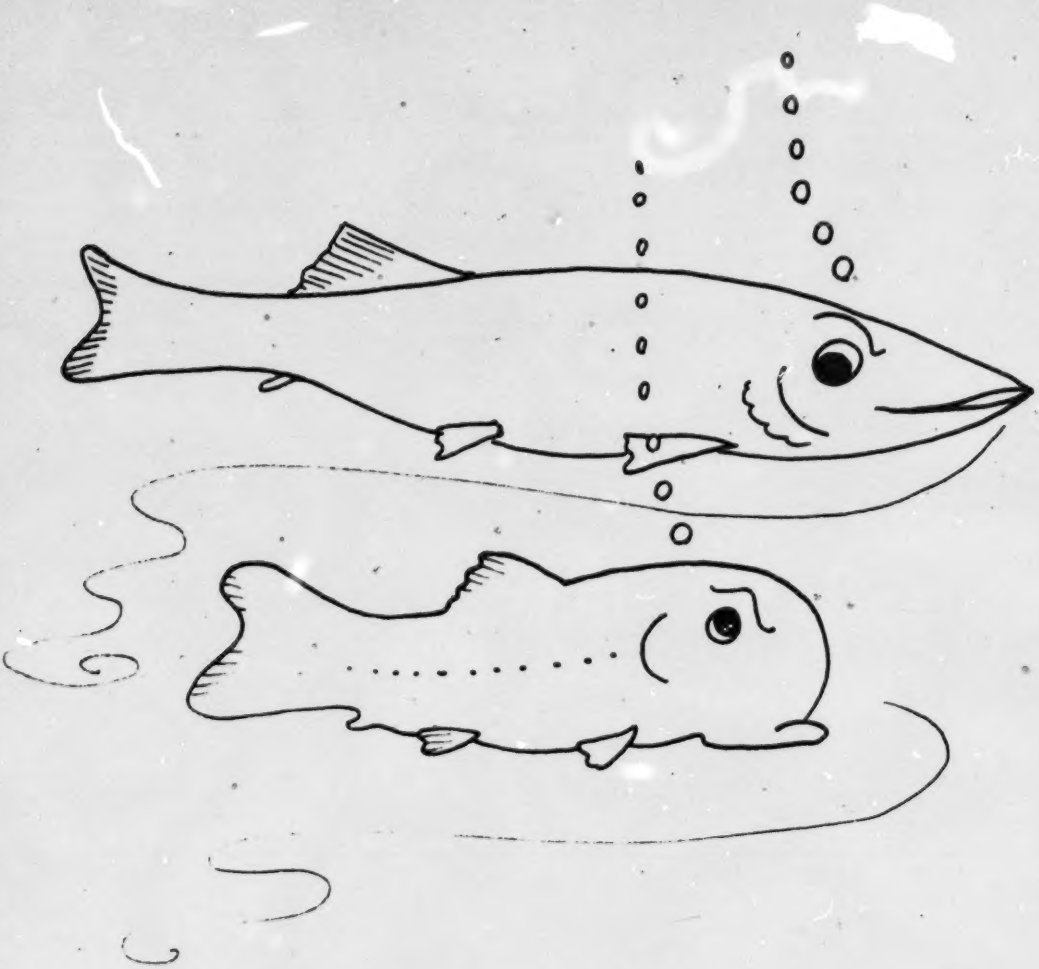
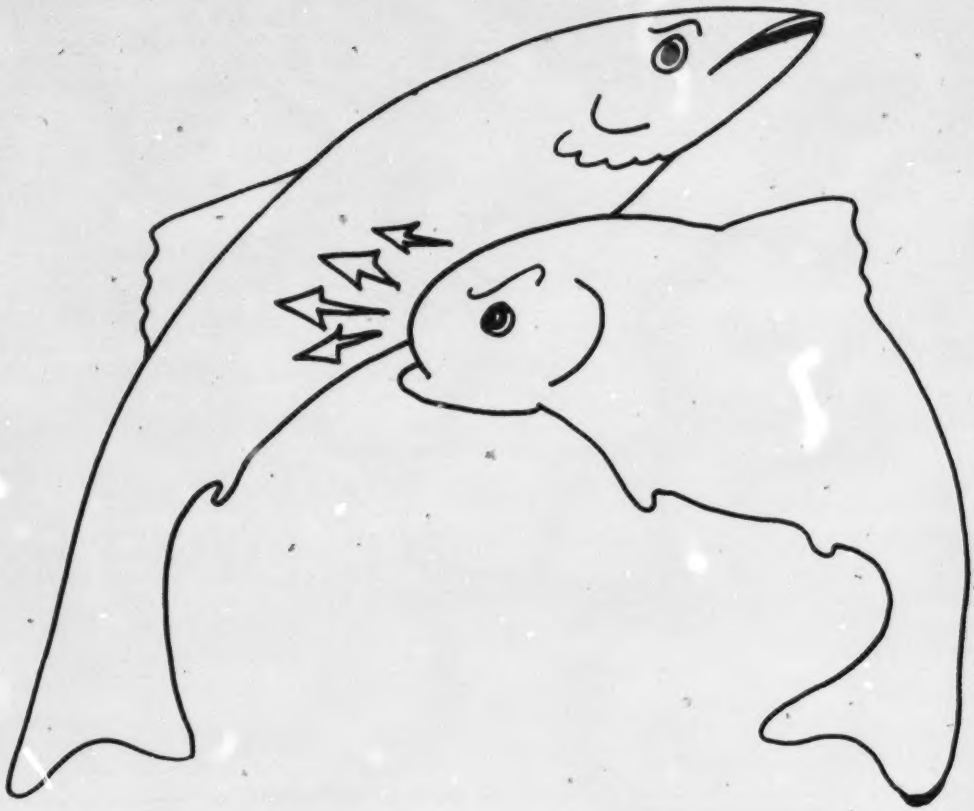
THE PIKE AND THE MUDSUCKER



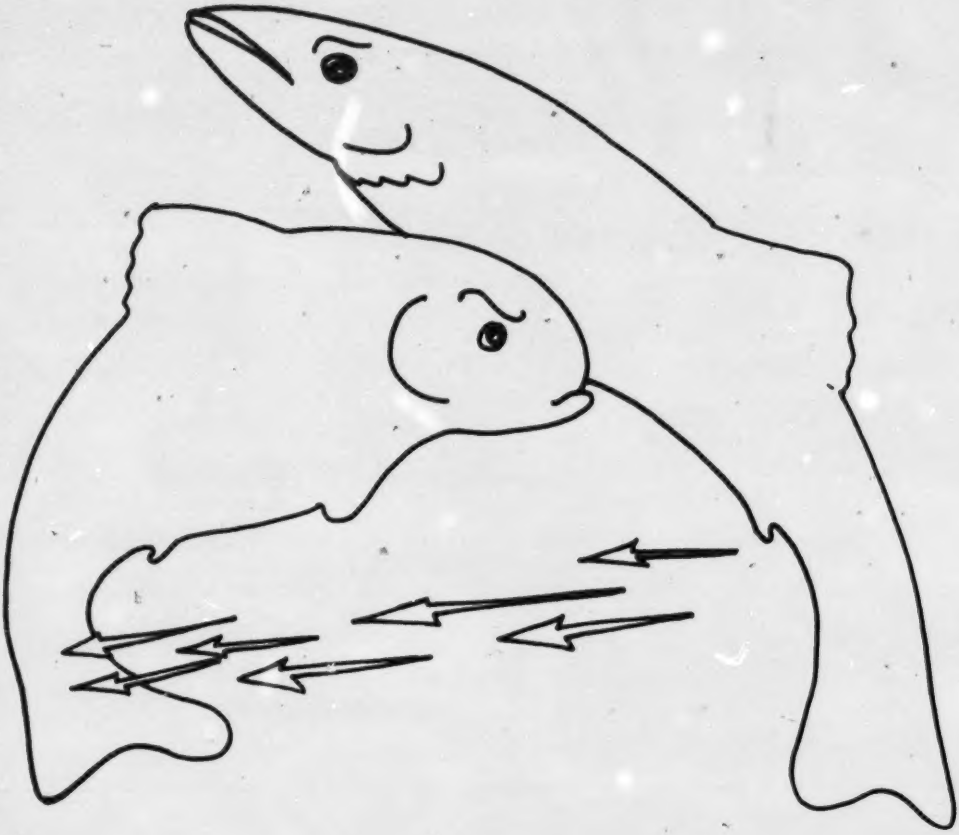
Two fishes lived in the lake.
One fish was the pike.
The other fish was the mudsucker.



These fishes were not good friends.
The pike didn't like the mudsucker.
The mudsucker didn't like the pike.



The pike and the mudsucker started to fight.
They began to shoot at each other.
The mudsucker shot the pike on the body.
He shot him many times on the body.
He didn't shoot the pike's tail.



The pike shot the mudsucker.
He shot the mudsucker many times.
He always hit the tail.
He shot the mudsucker's tail many times.

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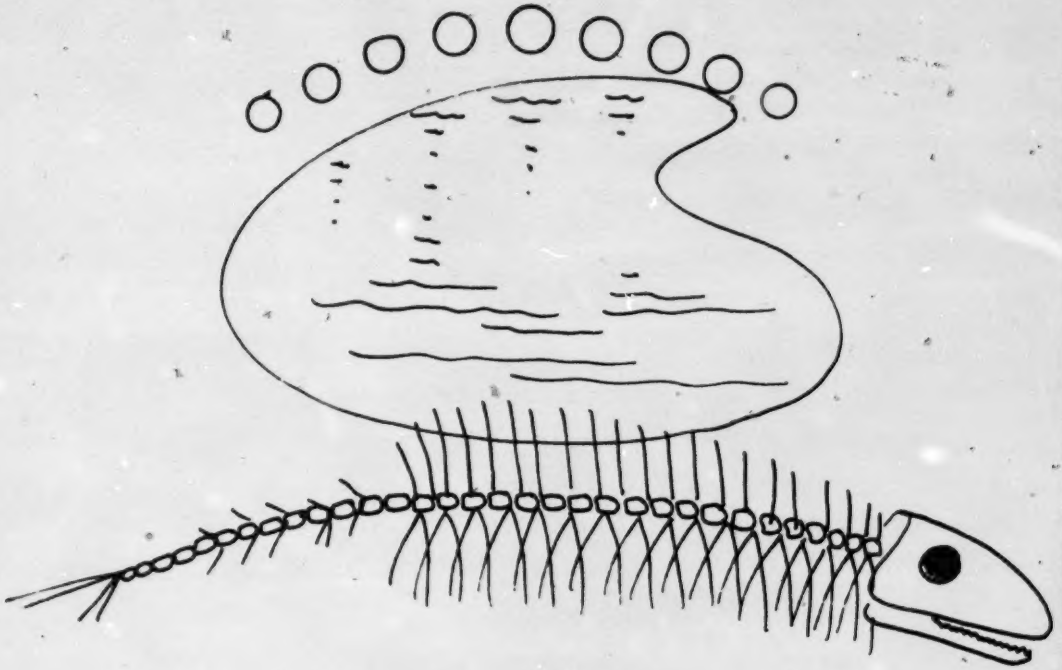
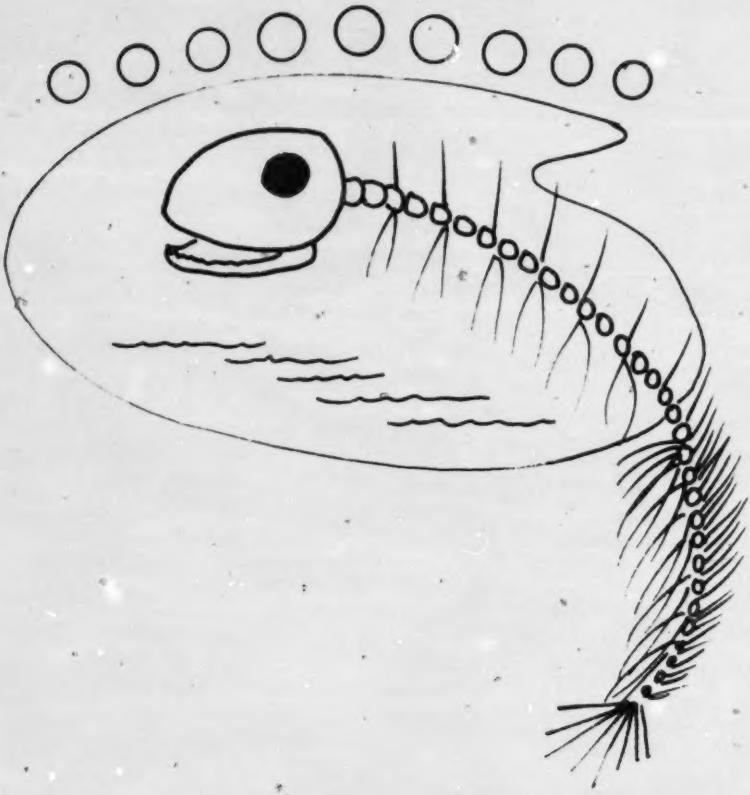
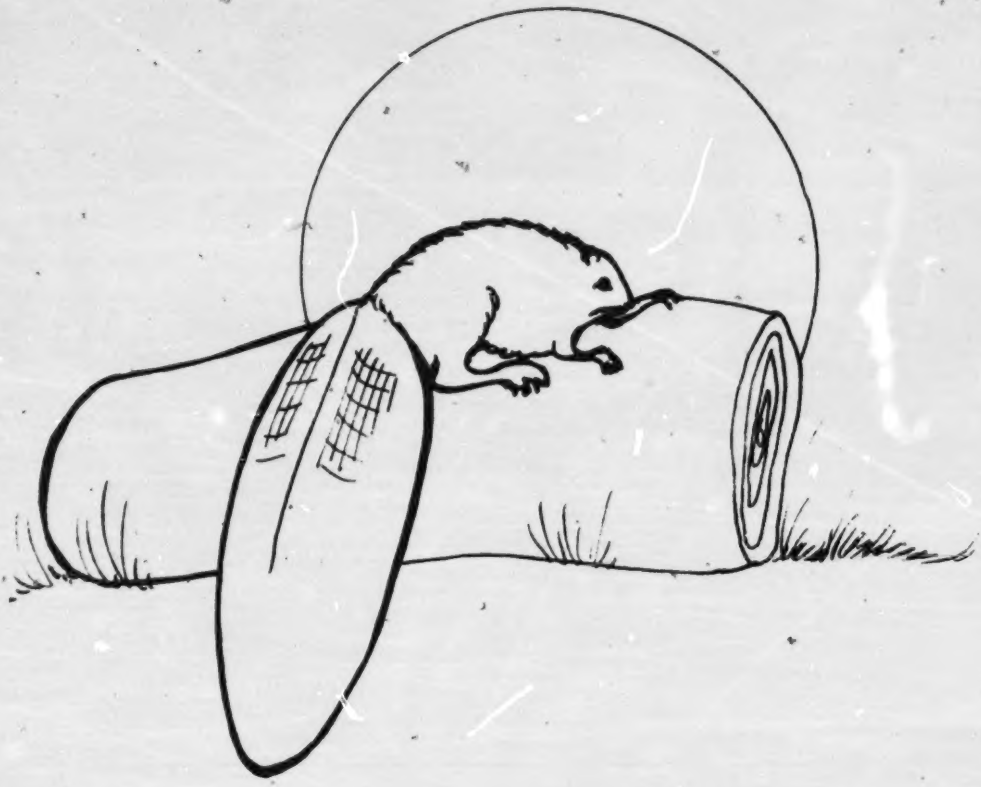


The mudsucker always shot the pike's body.
Now the pike has a boney body.
His tail is not boney.
The mudsucker didn't hit his tail.



The pike always shot the mudsucker's tail.
Now the mudsucker has a boney tail.
His body isn't boney.
The pike didn't hit his body.

HOW THE BEAVER GOT HIS TAIL



The muskrat had a great big tail.
It was very heavy.
The muskrat couldn't run.
He walked very slowly.
His tail dragged along behind him.

The beaver had a small tail.
He looked funny.
The other animals laughed at his tail.
And, he couldn't swim very well.

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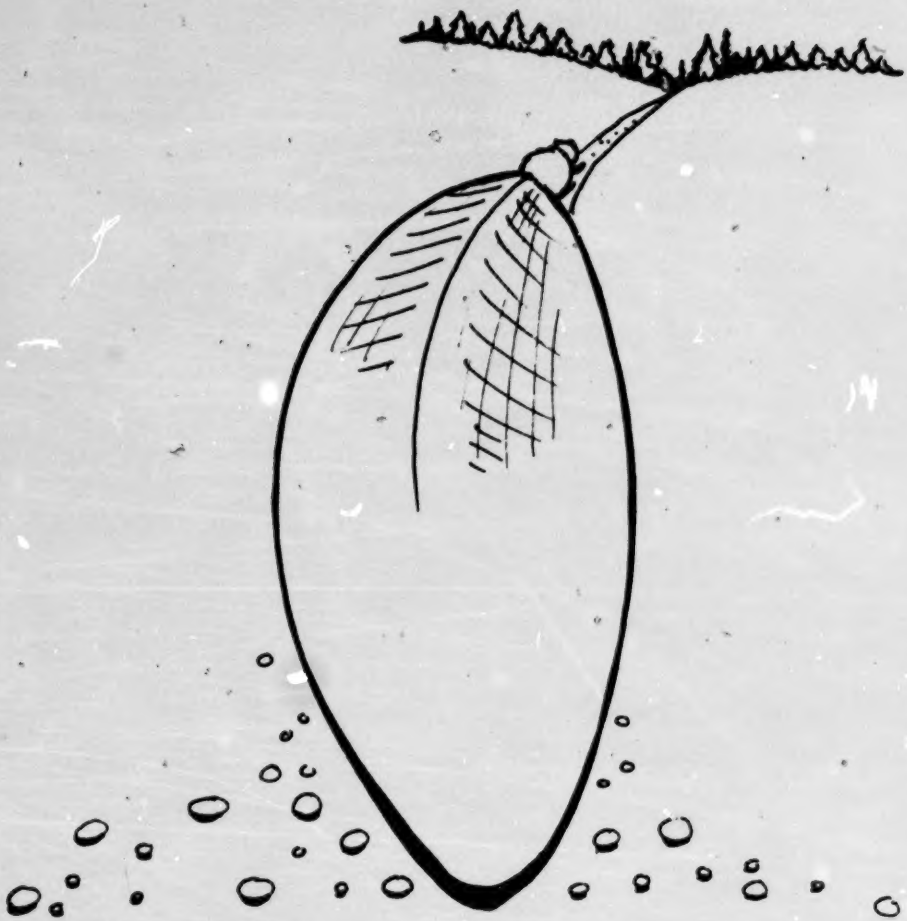
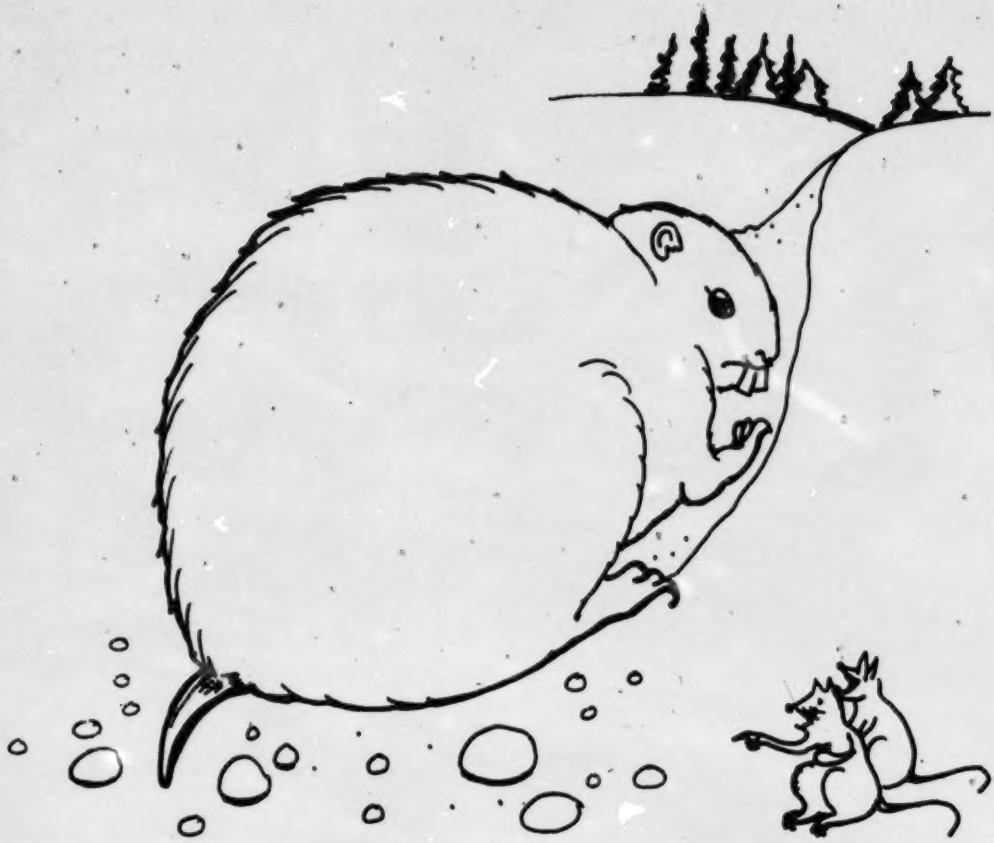
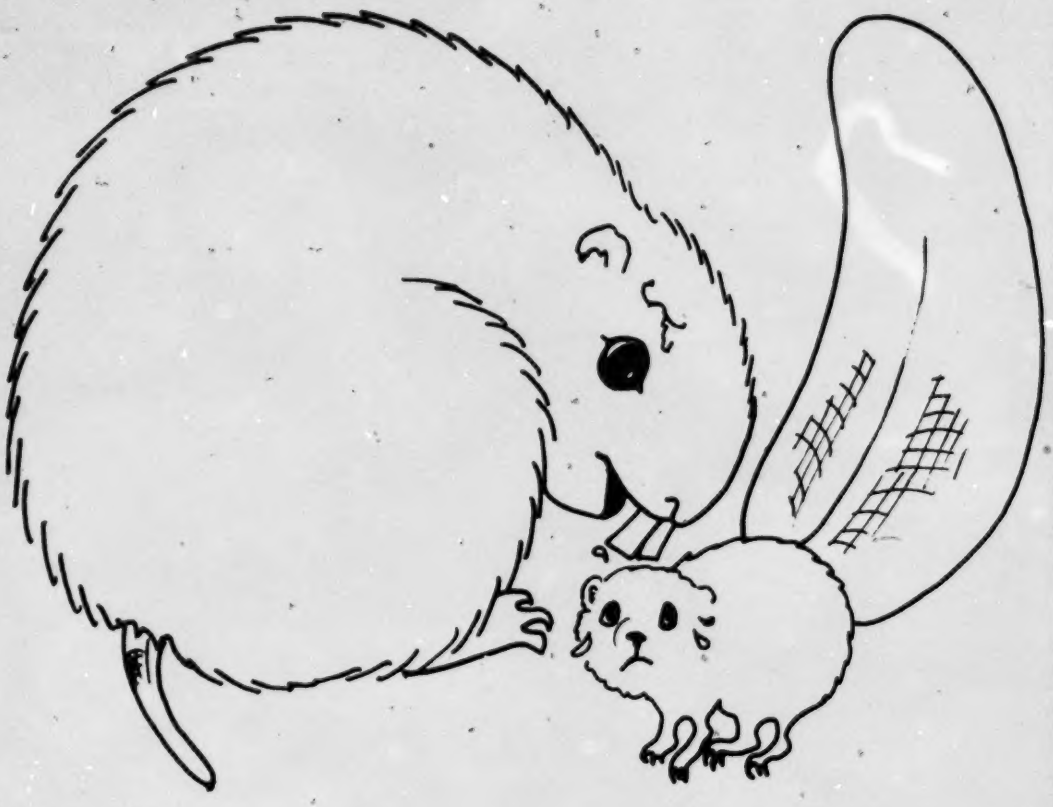


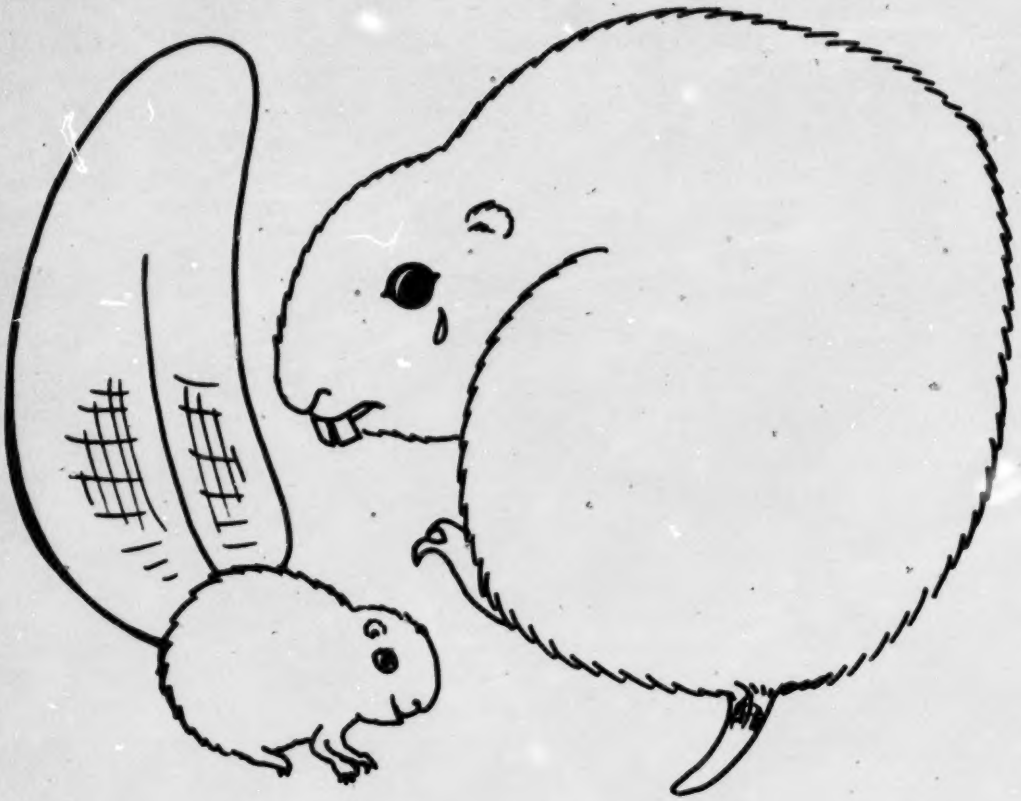
One day the muskrat went for a walk.
He dragged his big tail behind him.
He got tired very fast.
Then he stopped to rest.



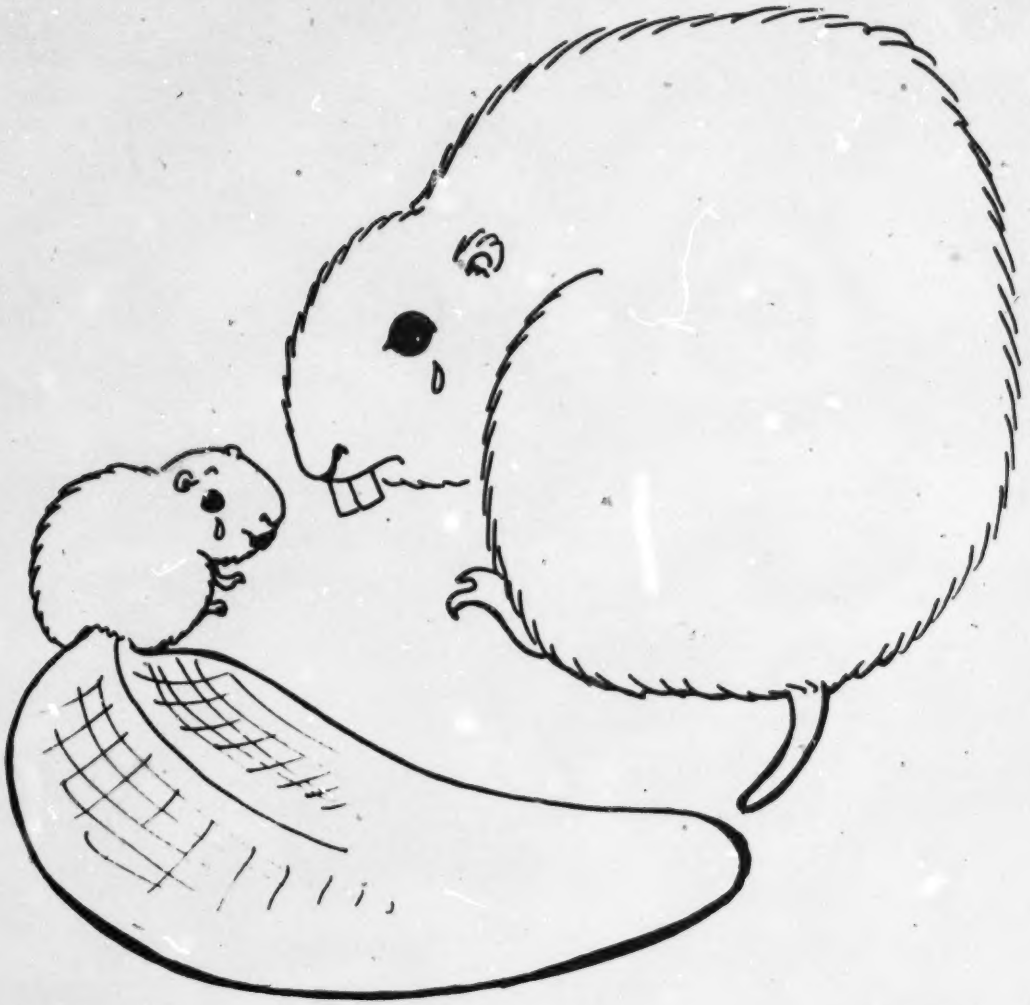
One day the beaver went walking.
He looked very funny.
The animals all laughed at him.
He felt sad.
He went to hide in the trees.



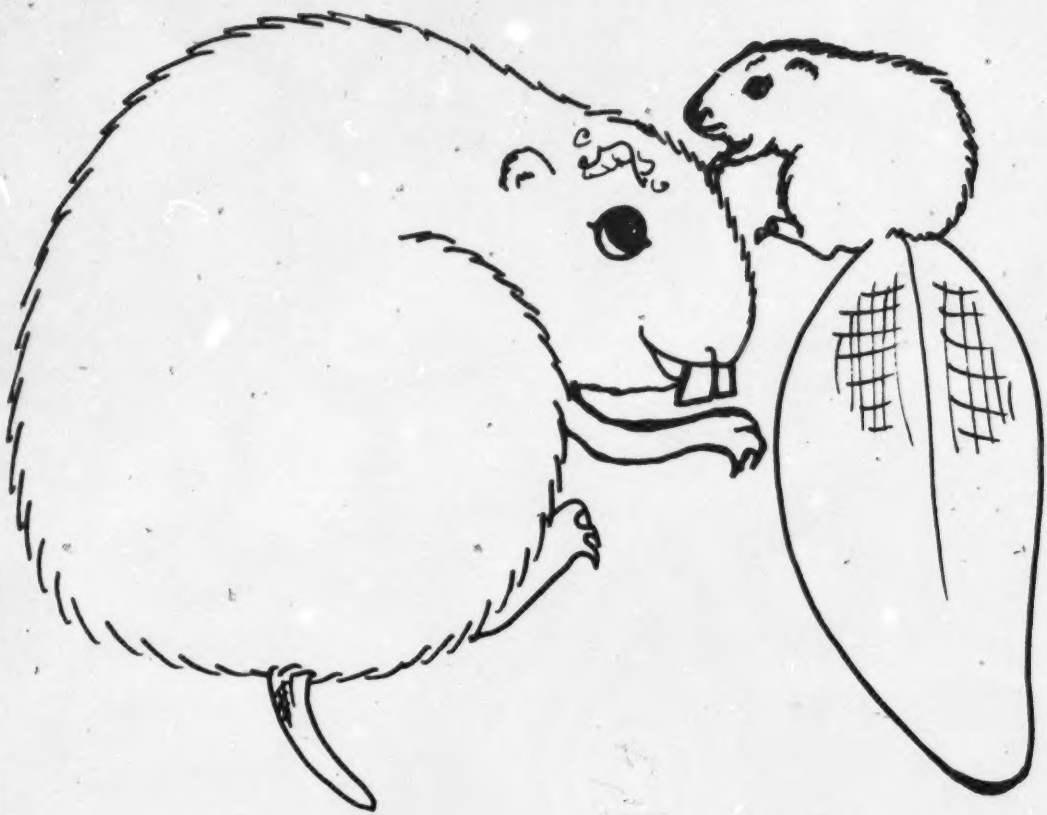
The beaver saw the muskrat.
"Why are you sitting here?" he asked.
The muskrat answered, "I'm tired."
"Why are you tired?" asked the beaver.
"I'm tired of pulling my tail."



"You look sad," said the muskrat.
"Why are you sad?"
The beaver answered, "Because I'm ugly.
My tail is too small.
All my friends laugh at me."

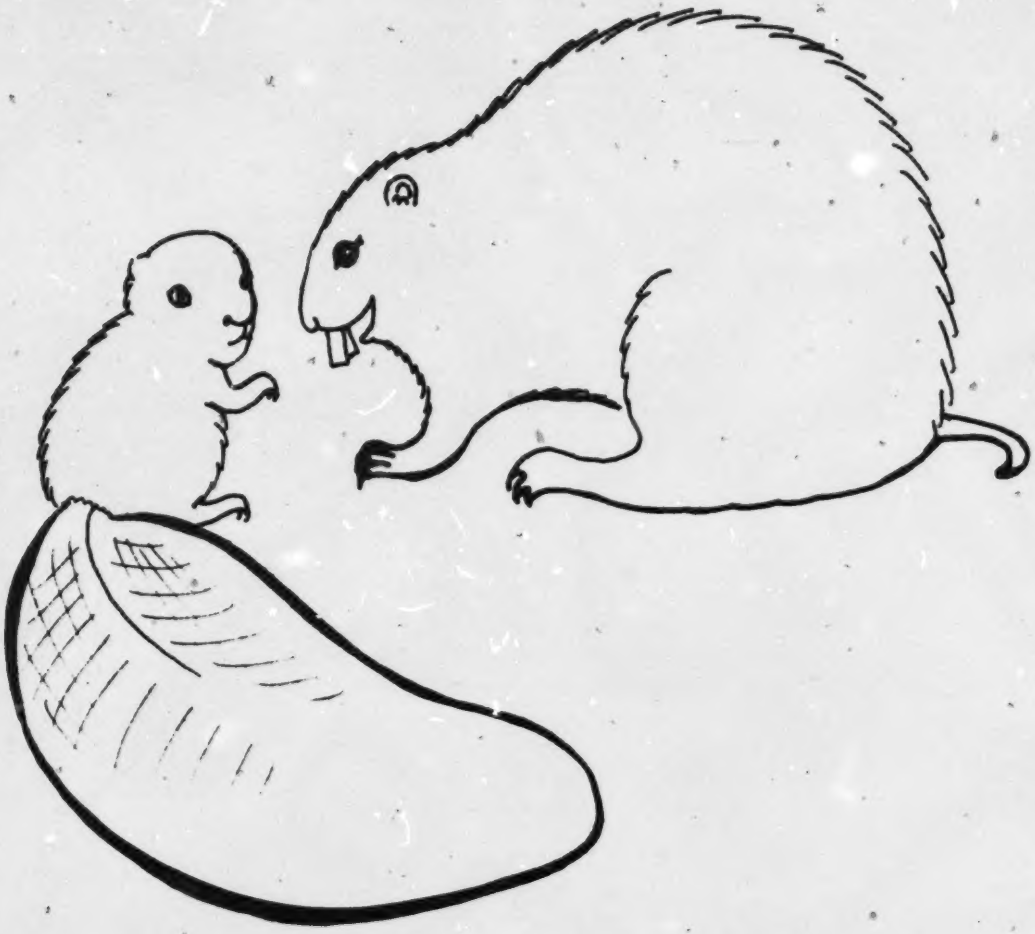


"Let me see your tail," said the muskrat.
"It looks good to me.
I'd like to have your tail."



"Let me see your tail," said the beaver.
"I like your tail very much.
I'd like to have your tail."

35



The beaver and the muskrat agreed to
trade tails.
"Is anybody looking?" asked the beaver.
"No," said the muskrat.

The beaver took his tail off.
He gave it to the muskrat.
The muskrat took his tail off.
He gave it to the beaver.
The beaver was very happy.
The muskrat was very happy also.
They are happy about it to this very day.